

### REMARKS

This application, as amended herein, contains claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 - 14, 16 - 19 and newly added claims 20 - 24. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 15 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 3, and 19 were rejected as anticipated by Mencarelli et al. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected as obvious over Mencarelli et al. Claim 2 was rejected as obvious over Mencarelli et al in view of Uke et al. Claims 7, 8, 14 and 15 were rejected as obvious over Mencarelli et al in view of Jones. Claims 9, 10 and 16 - 18 were rejected as obvious over Mencarelli et al in view of Putnam. Finally, Claims 11 - 13 were rejected as obvious over Mencarelli et al in view of Gunnell.

Applicant's invention, as set forth in claim 1, now recites:

A comfort grip for a shaft, comprising:

a tubular member formed of a closed cell resilient polymer material core;

a water resistant coating on a first side of said core;

an ingrained texture on a second side of said core;

said comfort grip being initially in the form of a rectangular piece of material, comprising joining portions along two opposite sides of the rectangular piece, said joining portions being connected to form the tubular member; and

connecting means for releasably connecting said joining portions, so that said comfort grip may be releasably positioned on said shaft;

said comfort grip being sized so as to be slightly stretched when positioned on a shaft.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the art of record. Specifically, the comfort grip of claim 1 has the following advantages:

1. It is releasably connected to a shaft so that it may be positioned at any needed location, and its position may be changed as needed, for example, to accommodate different users.
2. By having an ingrained texture on the second side, and by being sized so as to be slightly stretched when positioned on a shaft the comfort grip will be securely held in place once fastened in place, even though it is releasable.
3. Due to the resilient polymer material core, the comfort of the user will be assured, even though the underlying shaft may be hard, or have a rough surface.
4. The water resistant coating on a first side of the core assures that the core will not be permeated by water, thus making it less comfortable, and resulting in possible rapid degradation of the core material.
5. The rectangular structure and the joining means are assure simple, efficient production at relatively low cost.

There is nothing in any of the references, whether taken alone or in combination, which teaches or suggests the combination of features of Applicant's invention, as set forth in claim 1, as amended herein. Thus, it is respectfully

submitted that claim 1 is directed to patentable subject matter.

Claim 19 has been amended in a manner analogous to claim 1. For the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, it is submitted that claim 19 is also directed to patentable subject matter.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite releasably connecting two opposite sides of the rectangular piece of material to from a tubular member. Further the recitations of claim 15 have been included in claim 14. For the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, it is submitted that claim 14 is also patentable over the art of record.

The remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims mentioned above. These claims have further recitations that, in combination with the claim from which they depend, are not shown or suggested in the art of record.

Claim 20, which depends from claim 1, recites that the connecting means comprises stitching along edges of the sides to connect the joining portions. The prior art does not teach or suggest this approach.

Claim 21 recites that the connecting means comprises a lace disposed in openings in the joining portions. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of this structure in the prior art of record.

Claim 22 recites that the connecting means comprises a zipper having a side along each of the joining portions. The prior art does not teach or suggest this approach in combination with the recitations of claim 1, from which claim 22 depends.

Claim 23 recites that the connecting means comprises a set of hooks and loop closures on opposite ones of the joining portions. The prior art does not teach or suggest this approach in combination with the recitations of claim 1, from which claim 23 depends.

Claim 24 recites that the connecting means comprises a series of staples along the joining portions. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of this structure in the prior art of record.

Claim 5, which depends from claim 1, recites that the coating is formed of a nylon. There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to use this material, which has excellent water resistant properties, and enhances the advantages of water resistance discussed above with respect to claim 1. It is therefore submitted that claim 5 is also patentable over the art of record.

Claim 6, which also depends from claim 1, recites that the coating is formed of an ultraviolet resistant flexible material. This provides a marked advantage in helping the comfort grip to resist the deleterious effects of sunlight. There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of this problem or its solution.

Claims 9 and 16 have been amended to recite end bands disposed only along ends of the tubular member. This is in sharp contrast to the structure of Putnam, wherein the items 124 extend about the entire periphery of the hand grip device, and can hardly be termed "end bands". Thus, it is submitted that claims 9, 10 and 16 - 18 are also directed to patentable subject matter.

For the specific reasons set forth above, and for the reasons set forth with respect to the independent claims discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are also directed to patentable subject matter.

#### Conclusion

By amendment herein, the claims have now been placed in a condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider this application and allow the claims. If a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues,, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned.

Applicant petitions for an extension of time of one month, for the filing of this paper. A check in the amount of \$60 for a one-month extension of time is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date

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